



se2009.eu

PC.DEL/621/09
23 July 2009

ENGLISH only

Swedish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Permanent Council No. 770
Vienna 23 July 2009

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the 1000th execution by lethal injection in the United States of America

The European Union (EU) would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the “Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the 1000th execution by lethal injection in the United States of America” as issued on 21 July 2009:

“The European Union notes with deep regret that, with the execution of Mr Marvallous Keene by the State of Ohio on 21 July, the United States has carried out its 1000th execution by lethal injection since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances and has consistently called for its universal abolition. We believe that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights. The European Union considers this punishment cruel and inhuman. It has not been found to act as a deterrent, and any miscarriage of justice – which is inevitable in any

Postal address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Visitor's address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Telephone
+43 (0) 1 217 53 0

Fax
+43 (0) 1 217 53 380

E-mail: osse-del.wien@foreign.ministry.se
euoffice@osce.org

legal system – is irreversible. Consequently, the death penalty is abolished throughout the European Union.

The European Union also recalls that, on December 18 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the death penalty, reaffirming its Resolution adopted in December 2007, which calls upon all nations that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the practice.

The European Union warmly welcomes and values its cooperation with the United States on a wide range of human rights concerns around the world. The European Union therefore takes this opportunity to renew its call to the United States federal and state authorities for a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, pending its complete legal abolition.”